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RURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

A SPECIAL REPORT ON
THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM IN STATES
AND COUNTIES



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Information

February 1957

CONTENTS

In January 1957 the Department of Agriculture received individual reports from States participating in the Rural Development Program giving an up-to-date description of program operation within the pilot counties and areas. This special report is an attempt to summarize these State reports and, most important, to reflect the interest and enthusiasm the program has generated in pilot areas and the enterprise and leadership that are going into economic development projects there.

PROGRAM AREA: Forty-nine counties and 8 areas (of two or more counties) in 24 States are now participating in the program. There are roughly 111,000 farms in these counties, 81 percent of them with sales under \$2500 a year.

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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: Planning and directing balanced economic development in rural areas, pilot county leaders are also pioneering on a new frontier whose resources have long been underdeveloped. Their efforts have already produced a large number of varied economic development projects -- vocational training classes in industrial arts for adults, renovation of small industrial plants, better established rural community clubs, night classes in improved farming practices, market development -- these are a few of the many projects reported.

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STATE LEADERSHIP: A total of 525 State leaders, representing both agricultural and non-agricultural interests, are members of State rural development committees meeting regularly to guide the program. Eighty of these individuals represent private agencies and 154 of them, non-agricultural agencies and organizations.

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LOCAL INITIATIVE: Private individuals outnumber government agency representatives about 2 to 1 on organized rural development committees in 45 pilot counties. A total of 1,102 individuals are regular members of these committees.

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AGENCY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE: To assist local leaders in the program, educational and government agencies have added 87 associate county agents or specialists; full or part-time conservation technicians in 42 counties; 23 employees to staff 8 new FHA offices in pilot counties. Non-agricultural agencies -- State departments of labor and vocational education, boards of health, development commissions -- have contributed special services in several counties.

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RESOURCE STUDIES: Forty-seven basic surveys covering farm family living, manpower resources, employment needs, industrial sites, etc. have been started or completed in the pilot areas; 30 more are planned.

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LOCAL PUBLICITY: Daily and weekly newspapers and radio and TV stations in the program area are giving continuing publicity to the activities of rural development committees and to projects undertaken.

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THREE COUNTIES: To illustrate what "Rural Development Program" means in a specific pilot county, three examples have been chosen: Macon County, Tennessee; Twiggs County, Georgia; and Tippah County, Mississippi.

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Rural Resource Development

A Special Report on the Rural Development Program in States and Counties

Since publication in April 1955 of the report Development of Agriculture's Human Resources and the meeting in June 1955 of agricultural leaders from the 27 States where low-income farming is a chronic and serious problem, the cooperative Federal-State Rural Development Program, which was outlined at this meeting, has been started in 49 counties and 8 areas (two or more counties) in 24 States.

The program is mobilizing private organizations, farm, business, and civic leaders, and government agencies in a cooperative effort to promote balanced economic growth in rural areas with substantial numbers of underemployed people -- both farm families and others who live in the open country. Progress will come in part through better farming, but education and vocational training, improvement of health and personal security, information on job opportunities off the farm are also essential.

Because of a lack of special funds until July 1956, the need for intensive planning and organization within the States, and the nature of economic problems involved, the Rural Development Program at present is still in an early stage. Several States did inaugurate work at the county level in fiscal 1956 without any additional resources, but most of the pilot counties and areas joined the program only in the last six months. Much of the activity reported here has taken place during that six-month period.

Progress in Three Pilot Counties

How does the Rural Development Program operate? How does it differ from regular agricultural improvement programs? Who is responsible for its leadership? These and other questions can best be answered by taking a look at typical pilot counties which have had an opportunity to organize rural development programs and move ahead with early improvement projects. Since this is a "pilot" program, the experience of these and similar counties will be invaluable to leaders in other rural areas who will undertake such organized development programs in the future.

Tippah County, Mississippi

Leaders in Tippah County, Mississippi, in the southeastern hilly area of the Nation, are doing something about the serious economic problems they face. They describe these problems as too many small, inefficient farms; shrinking cotton allotments on farms where cotton is the main source of income; inadequate credit for both full and part-time farmers; poor markets; lack of motivation for on-the-farm improvements.

In mid-November 1955 Tippah's people formed a rural development committee, which is representative of farm, business, civic, youth, and government interests in the area. Since then the group has met more than 11 times to inaugurate development projects and keep attention focused on them.

The committee organized a trade day awards program, with a registered Jersey cow as first prize and nineteen registered Jerseys have been placed with county farmers through this project. A labor survey to obtain information for industry planning showed that more than 500 women were interested in off-farm jobs. A small clothing factory, employing 250 people, has already located in the county in a building remodeled by local people. Money raised by subscription from businessmen and the more prosperous farmers has financed a milk receiving plant, which will not only employ county workers but also provide a new market for dairy farmers. The rural development committee hopes to increase milk production to an average of 5,000 pounds per cow, and is encouraging a shift from cotton to dairy where production of the former is too low to provide an adequate income.

Now a part of the overall Rural Development Program, organized rural communities have long been a basic method of gaining better farming in Tippah County. One new rural community was organized in 1956, bringing the total to 8 white and one Negro community. Each of these communities have planned programs of farm, home, and community betterment, with prizes going to the winning community. Farm and home unit planning has also received new encouragement through the work of the rural development committee. Early in the program, a special two-day meeting of State and local representatives of the Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and the Farmers Home Administration developed a unified farm and home plan acceptable to each of them which will be used in educational work with small farmers.

Three Extension Service employees are working half their time on Rural Development Program projects, and one technician has also been added to the county SCS staff. These and other agency representatives are helping the rural development committee put its own program on a firm base and move into coordinated, county-wide economic improvement.

Macon County, Tennessee

Macon County, Tennessee, located in the north central part of the State, has a complex agricultural situation, with more than 3/4 of the commercial farms selling less than \$2,500 worth of products. For every five boys graduating from vo-ag classes in the high school only one farm becomes available. Yet only one factory in the county employs men.

Formation of the representative Macon County Rural Development Committee took place in October 1955, with the State development committee giving technical assistance and counsel. There are 12 farmers on the county committee, 6 businessmen and bankers, a local minister, the mayor of a town in the county, and representatives of agricultural agencies. The chairman of this committee is a farmer and the secretary, the mayor of Lafayette, Tennessee. Through several working groups, the rural development committee guides project development in agriculture, industry, civic and community affairs, youth needs, and homemaking. It's the responsibility of these working groups to collect information, initiate projects, coordinate with interests in the area and with government agencies, and put planning and purpose into the work.

"We feel the Macon County Rural Development Committee has initiated several activities in 1956," write its members, "that would not have been attempted without the committee action." Some of these activities:

--Construction of a small building to house new industrial training classes and negotiation with the State Department of Vocational Education to obtain an instructor for the classes. He is now teaching in the county, and three classes for adults have been started.

--With technical aid from the State Division of Employment Security, a survey of labor in the county in which volunteer workers were used. The survey found 800 potential applicants for off-farm work.

--Aid to a local farm-business group in talks leading to establishment of a 600-employee factory in the county.

--A campaign urging small farmers to plant strawberries for a local processor. This project has good prospects of increasing income on small farms in the county by \$300,000 in 1957.

--Development of a grade-A egg route into Nashville, starting on eight farms.

Besides the two mentioned above, several agencies are putting extra resources into this pilot county program. The State Extension Service -- using special Federal funds -- has added an assistant county agent and a home agent. Another technician has been placed in the SCS office. With an estimated 25 percent increase in farm ownership and operating loans expected in the county during fiscal 1957 because of the Rural Development Program, FHA has placed a part-time credit supervisor in the county. University of Tennessee specialists are helping the county agent conduct farm management schools for small farmers in dairying, animal husbandry, and poultry production. All these agencies are represented on the county rural development committee.

Twiggs County, Georgia

The Rural Development Program in Georgia's Twiggs County is helping leaders there gain tighter coordination and unified planning of the county's many economic and social development projects.

In the past an agricultural program planning group and a county development corporation, along with other agencies and organizations, contributed to farm and urban economic improvement in the county. Now the county rural development committee, formed last June, is serving to help coordinate the work of these various groups. As one example, the board of directors of the Twiggs County Development Corporation serves as the subcommittee on industry of the rural development committee. This committee also includes subcommittees concerned with agricultural development, health, education, and religion. They have already completed a series of basic surveys covering these fields.

The industry development corporation has sent representatives to industrial centers in the East and Midwest to meet with businessmen and discuss their locating branch plants in the county. Members of the corporation have already made substantial gains in the drive to strengthen the county's economy. For example, they were instrumental in having a modern office and store center built in the county seat town. And several farmers have been aided in switching to broiler production through the work of this group.

Plans for a five-year program of economic improvement in Twiggs have been prepared by the rural development committee and will be given wide publicity throughout the county in coming months. The committee will also launch a campaign to interest local people in county development and their own personal improvement.

Agricultural agencies in the county have been reinforced with a total of 6 new personnel -- 3 Extension Service agents, 1 soil scientist, and 1 FHA supervisor -- to help the Rural Development Committee move toward their vital, long-range program goals.

Who Guides the Program?

Almost all States participating in the Rural Development Program provide general guidance through committees that are broadly representative of private organizations and government agencies with responsibilities for research, agricultural and industrial development, employment service, and health, education, and welfare in the State. These committees name pilot counties and furnish local leaders with information and advice, often using Extension Service or Experiment Station specialists to coordinate with pilot county leaders on a regular basis.

The agencies and organizations represented on these committees are not necessarily the same for each State taking part in the program. In Alabama, for example, the rural development committee includes representatives from the Extension Service and the Experiment Station, Soil Conservation Service, Vocational Education, Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Administration, Farmers Home Administration, State Chamber of Commerce, U. S. Forest Service, ASC Committee, State Bankers' Association, Soil Conservation Committee and Social Security Administration.

In Tennessee those agencies (or their equivalent) are represented on the State committee, and also the Tennessee State Grange, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Department of Employment Security, Commissioner of Health, Industrial Development Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority, and community development groups in the State. These two committees are typical of others in the 24-State area.

Although no two States are exactly alike in their program organization, the pattern is similar: representative rural development committees with a single agency -- usually the Extension Service -- supplying administrative and technical support. Throughout the program area, 525 people are participating in the program as regular members of these State committees, 80 of them representing private agencies and 154 of them non-agricultural agencies and organizations.

In Counties, Local People Take Lead

Most pilot counties have also set up rural development committees to provide direction for their programs, evaluate resources, establish long-range goals, and coordinate with State-level committees. These groups are unique in many areas, bringing together on a continuing basis government personnel, and private agencies working in the county and individual leaders with a recognized place in the community. Some examples of county organization:

Indiana: A group of 17 local leaders including businessmen, farmers, and the newspaper editor have formed the Perry County Rural Development Committee. To make use of local skills and information, the group calls on agency representatives and private individuals, formed into temporary working groups, which study specific problems in agriculture, health, etc. and make recommendations.

Oklahoma: The Choctaw County Rural Development Committee, consists of leaders from all major segments of the county's economy, including the chamber of commerce, city planning commission, agricultural agencies, county government, health service, schools, farmers' organizations (Farm Bureau and Farmers' Union), Indian Service, ministerial alliance, banks, and newspapers. Both the chairman and the secretary are members of the chamber of commerce. Three subcommittees guiding development in agriculture, industry, and health and welfare are responsible for initiating projects in these fields.

Texas: The Shelby County Rural Development Committee includes a representative from each organized community and each county town, thus giving representation to all geographic sections.

In all, 45 counties report organized committees with a total of 1,102 members. Private individuals and members of organizations outnumber government agency representatives by about 2 to 1.

State reports testify to the effectiveness of these rural development organizations and the interest being stimulated through periodic meetings. In Lewis County, West Virginia, for example, townspeople showed immediate interest in a program to help low-income rural people and establish better communications between town and country. The program leader, a merchant, in Tennessee's Houston County said that since September 1956 more meetings had been held in the county than during any comparable period in the past. Because the Price County, Wisconsin, subcommittee on industry resources encouraged local communities to promote industry through organization of industrial development leadership, one of these communities was able to strengthen a faltering business and keep it in the county.

State and local leadership groups, formed as a direct result of the Rural Development Program, are encouraging new, closer cooperation between government and private agencies and rural area leaders.

"The Rural Development Program is the first truly broad-scale attack on the problems of low-income farmers. I am happy to see so many groups and agencies working together as a single team. That is the way to get results." Statement by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, September 28, 1956.

A New Look at Rural Area Resources

Because they are attempting a new evaluation of their county's resources and needs as a first step in long-range economic development, county leaders in many of the program areas have begun with surveys and other studies which will produce essential information on such factors as manpower, farm family living, youth needs, and industry potential. In many cases program counties are utilizing the skills and technical resources of State Experiment Stations, Departments of Rural Sociology and Economics, Employment Services, and Extension staffs. Twenty-two States reported a total of 47 such surveys started or completed and 30 in the planning stage as of January 1.

Here are some examples: In representative areas of Fayette County, Pennsylvania questionnaires dealing with all important phases of farm living were distributed to nearly 300 rural households. In one of these areas volunteers did almost all the work, under direction of the county agent. Oklahoma's Extension Service has already published data on farm families in Choctaw County, based on information secured through a study of the area. A questionnaire was prepared by State college researchers, pre-tested, then given wide distribution among farm families by agricultural workers. Texas A. and M. has published a similar study entitled Agriculture's Human Resources in Cherokee County (an early pilot county in the Rural Development Program) as basic source material for planning in county development work. In Maine's Washington County the Extension agent in charge of rural development joined with the area industrial committee to plan and direct a labor survey in the coastal part of the county.

Farm, Industry, Family Living Projects in Program Areas

Although the Rural Development Program with its emphasis on the use of all services and aids leading to balanced economic development under direction of local leaders is an experimental program in most areas, notable gains have already been made in several counties and concrete improvement projects are underway in others. The list which follows of typical projects resulting partly or wholly from the Rural Development Program shows the kind of work State, area, and county leaders are doing.

Keep in mind that these projects by no means give a complete picture of Rural Development Program activity in the counties named. They are merely examples of the kind of work being done. Many of these counties have programs as broad as those in the three pilot counties described earlier in this report, with as many projects planned or underway.

Monroe County, Ohio: Through public meetings and discussions with the county board of health, the rural development committee's subcommittee on health assisted in getting new sanitary regulations established in the county.

Covington County, Mississippi: Negro farmers were encouraged by the rural development group to join a nearby cooperative farmers' market, thus gaining an outlet for truck crops. Diversified farming -- production of fruits, vegetables, livestock, poultry -- is being promoted through the Rural Development Program.

Perry County, Indiana: New drive has been given to industrialization in the county through the work of the development committee and the growing interest of the people in economic betterment. Four new industries have been established in the county in recent months, at least one influenced by information on county resources prepared and distributed by the Rural Development Committee.

Santa Fe County, New Mexico: The county rural development committee has started its program by attempting to meet the most pressing needs in the county, one of which is activities for rural youth. They've been working to increase recreation facilities in the county, and through planning and organization have been able to make good use of new financial aid from the State for recreation.

Chesterfield County, South Carolina: After a study of agricultural potential in the county, the rural development steering committee decided to promote poultry, swine, and truck crop production on county farms. The group developed information on production, financing, and marketing and made field trips to areas successful in producing these crops. Twenty-nine farmers have applied to make changes in production, and financing is being arranged through the FHA, PCA, and local feed companies.

Washington County, Maine: Working with poultry industry leaders, members of the Washington County Rural Development Committee are trying to promote an expanded hatching egg business in the area, in line with market needs.

Choctaw County, Oklahoma: A rural development subcommittee on education has prepared recommendations for changes in education in the county -- including more vocational training in industrial arts. These recommendations, based on findings in the county's rural development survey (see above), are now being considered by the State Vocational Education Department.

Van Buren County, Arkansas: Program leaders have started an educational campaign among families on small farms to get them acquainted with improvement programs and alternative sources of income. Important in this project is widespread information on Social Security.

Fayette County, Alabama: A new attempt is being made to improve poultry production in the county and develop markets for commercial eggs and hatching eggs. The Fayette Rural Development Committee has taken the lead in this, concentrating at first on financing problems.

Along with these individual area development projects, the Rural Development Program is encouraging expanded educational work among small farmers in pilot counties. Traditional educational methods -- community clubs, farm unit planning, 4-H group meetings -- are being used. Experimental methods directed toward the special needs of small farmers will be originated. Extension agents, employed with Federal funds, are building expanded on-the-farm education programs in these counties. Detailed reports received to date from only 15 of the pilot counties show that through on-the-farm counselling by Extension agents 431 families have been helped to make major adjustments in their farm and home operations and 176 have been aided in developing new sources of income.

With two new agents assigned in Missouri's Douglas County, for example, the balanced farming program is being expanded to include 130 farm families. In South Carolina's Chesterfield County a simplified farm and home plan prepared by agricultural agencies in the county has already been put into operation on 20 small farms. Seventy-five farm unit plans have been started in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, as a result of expansion under the Rural Development Program. Weekly schools in farm and home management, designed to interest both children and adults, have been started in two Dent County, Missouri, communities.

Educational projects such as these to bring the benefits of modern farm knowledge to families on small farms are being pushed in almost all pilot program areas.

Publicity through Local Press, Radio and TV

A good indication of the interest which the Rural Development Program has generated in States and counties is the widespread publicity received in the local press and the many radio and TV broadcasts devoted to objectives, plans, and the need for public support of this work.

At least half the counties participating in the program are making regular use of local news media to publicize it. For example, two radio stations in the area of Douglas County, Missouri, carry regular reports of progress in the county's Rural Development Program. The editorial staff of Georgia's Extension Service prepares regular releases on the State's program which are used extensively by news media in the State. Extension representatives on the Ohio Rural Development Committee took part in a television show, describing a pilot county program, and radio tapes have been distributed widely in that State.

A Major Objective Obtained

One of the most important objectives already gained in the national Rural Development Program is the new cooperation established in many areas among government agencies responsible for many different programs, some of them outside the field of agriculture. In some cases for the first time, representatives of these agencies in States and counties are discussing unified program planning on a regular basis and trying to coordinate their different operations in pilot areas. Some of these agencies have resources especially for the Rural Development Program; others are making a contribution -- in time of personnel, incidental costs, technical services--from regular resources.

Through the Rural Development Program, government agencies have also established a new basis for cooperation with the many private organizations represented on State and county rural development committees. These private groups are making an essential contribution in time of personnel, technical and planning skills, and acknowledged support of the program.

Agricultural Agencies: Direct Assistance

At present these Federal and State agencies are making major contributions to the Rural Development Program:

State Extension Services are providing essential administrative support for State and county rural development committees, they have worked to explain and organize programs in pilot counties, and using additional employees are stepping up on-the-farm educational projects in these counties. A total of 87 associate county agents or specialists have been employed in 24 States to work on the Rural Development Program; before the year is over this number will rise to 100. Most of these are employed in pilot counties. In Maryland, Arkansas, Minnesota, and Michigan, however, an Extension representative works full-time coordinating the program on a State-wide basis.

Soil Conservation Service: This agency has contributed more than 12,000 man-hours of time to conservation work in pilot counties and areas as a part of the Rural Development Program. SCS workers have devoted all or part of their time to the program in 42 pilot counties and 8 trade areas. Almost 600 farms in the program area have received on-site help; and soil surveys have been made on 76,000 acres.

Farmers Home Administration: Many pilot county leaders stress the need for credit to help small farmers improve their operations and move from one-crop production to diversified farming and production for different markets. FHA has a major role in the Rural Development Program and has already opened full or part-time lending offices in 8 pilot counties where offices were not located before. A total of 23 employees have been hired for pilot areas or transferred to work there.

ASC Committees: Many county rural development committees include a member of the ASC committee. ASC committees in some places increased cost-sharing payments for certain practices to encourage conservation improvement in the Rural Development Program. In Kentucky, for example, the State ASC committee has set up an added \$5,000 quota of funds to improve practices in each of the pilot areas.

State Forest Services: With State forest services supplying technical advice, program leaders have made forest and forest industry improvement a priority project in several areas. The forestry resource committee in Price County, Wisconsin, for example, has set up three woodlot demonstration areas to show the income farmers can earn through proper use of forest resources. And in Tennessee the Forestry Department aided in planting more than 2 million trees in the State's pilot areas in 1955-56.

Non-agricultural Agencies: Aid in Special Projects

Many States taking part in the Rural Development Program report contributions from non-agricultural agencies in addition to the planning work of these agencies with State rural development committees. Some of the things they are doing:

Indiana's Board of Health has offered technical aid to Perry County in conducting a health survey; the development group is making plans to use this service.

In Alabama's Chilton County, school principals in the various communities agreed to assist the rural development committee in getting survey questionnaires answered by farm families.

The commissioners and the board of education in Meriwether County, Georgia, have contributed nearly \$1,000 worth of office equipment and provided office space for Rural Development Program workers in the county. A similar local government contribution has been made in many other areas.

Michigan State University's Continuing Education Service has joined with the Extension Service to supply administrative leadership for the resource development program in the Upper Peninsula, including two pilot counties. Continuing Education will employ four specialists -- in community development, traffic and safety, labor and industrial relations, and adult education.

State agencies in Tennessee are promoting development in pilot areas on a broad front: As two examples: The Industrial and Agricultural Commission has helped officials of a major paper company work out the details of possible plant location in or near one of the pilot areas. The Department of Vocational Education has placed new teachers in industrial arts in Hardin and Macon counties.

Arkansas' committee, planning manpower surveys in three pilot counties, will receive technical aid from the State Department of Labor. And Arkansas State University specialists will prepare a plan for evaluating the Rural Development Program in the State as it moves from the initial stage into long-term operation.

In Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, local government officials not only approved the proposed program for rural development but have contributed nearly 750 dollars in equipment and supplies to get it started.

The Price County, Wisconsin, industrial resources development sub-committee has received considerable help from the Governor's Division of Industry Development.

If another source can be found to put up matching funds, Kentucky's Economic Development Board will contribute \$8,000 to help promote an agricultural resources survey in Kentucky.

And throughout the Rural Development Program area, individual States and counties have received technical aid from the U. S. Commerce Department's Office of Area Development--either through direct visits of specialists or through material prepared by this office advising on business and industry promotion. A few of the States which Commerce representatives have visited to counsel with program leaders: Texas, Tennessee, Maryland, Kentucky, North Carolina.

Development Projects Being Planned

On the basis of plans being made by State and county leaders in the Rural Development Program, the next few months should witness increased activity in all States as added resources are put into local development projects. Organization of committees and initial publicizing of the program will be completed in many areas, working plans will be firmed up, and resource surveys will be completed and results analyzed.

Illustrative of the diverse projects under consideration by rural development committees in pilot areas are the following:

- Planting pine seedlings on 600 now barren acres in Hardin County, Tennessee.
- Construction of a sorghum processing mill in Phillips County, Arkansas.
- Joint meeting of the Price and Sawyer County (Wisconsin) Rural Development Committees to discuss problems and exchange ideas.
- Building a cooperative roadside market in Watauga County, North Carolina to sell farm products and handicrafts.
- A cooperative Wayne County (Georgia)-Chamber of Commerce-employment service project to help farm families find off-farm jobs.
- Workshops for pilot county leaders in Kentucky.
- Stepped-up educational work with small farmers through community organizations and farm unit planning in Tippah County, Mississippi.
- A survey of industrial sites and possibilities with aid from the local power company in a Virginia pilot county.
- Improved vocational training in Sandoval County, New Mexico.

The variety of development projects being planned in pilot counties and the continuing, growing interest throughout the program areas on the part of the farmers, businessmen, and organization representatives indicate their intention to use the Rural Development Program as an effective new method for stimulating community-wide economic and social progress.

APPENDIX

A Summary of Current Research in Connection with the Rural Development Program which Utilizes Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Marketing Service Funds and Personnel.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE Production Economics Research Branch

Twenty-two studies involving cooperative work with 16 State Experiment Stations and dealing with the following are now underway or planned: (1) Capital, land, and other resource requirements for operator income levels of \$2,500 and \$3,500 for selected types of farms in six States; (2) part-time and full-time farming possibilities in several major areas; (3) information on the trends in the magnitude of low-income farm problems and sizes of farms since 1930; (4) experience and problems of 6,000 FHA clients by major areas of the United States, 1946-54; (5) resource use and income source and levels in selected rural areas in 11 States; (6) labor resources and utilization in selected areas in three States; (7) factors affecting rural development and methods in particular areas; (8) credit use and financial obstacles to progress in South Carolina; (9) tenure aspects of farm abandonment and consolidation in low-income areas.

In addition, service activities such as assistance to North Carolina in preparing report for the governor on low-income farm problems, and preparation of material for National University Extension Association, and assistance to State Extension personnel.

Household Economics Research Branch

Has research under way that will be useful to workers in the Rural Development Program in counseling families on the improved management of their resources. Food budgets to guide families in obtaining nutritionally adequate diets at low cost are being revised; information from surveys is being summarized to show costs of goods and services used by farm families; research is under way to estimate the service life of major pieces of household equipment used by farm families of different sizes. And research is planned on home management problems in cooperation with one of the States in the Rural Development Program.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE Farm Population and Rural Life Branch

Is engaged in a program of research in rural development involving 12 projects on a cooperative basis with 10 State Experiment Stations during the 1956-57 fiscal year. Its contribution includes over-all planning and funds and professional services supporting State projects. Important studies to which the Farm Population and Rural Life Branch will contribute deal with (1) effects of the establishment of new industries in low-income rural areas on levels of living and job adjustments; (2) availability and use of educational and vocational training in rural areas and relation between education and migration; (3) availability and use of health facilities and voluntary insurance programs in low-income

rural areas; (4) farmers' economic security in old age and knowledge of Social Security benefits.

Market Organization and Costs Branch

In December 1956 a statement was released indicating farm product marketing and processing facilities which might be considered for establishment in farm areas. A manuscript Major Manufacturing Industries in the U. S. as Employment Opportunities in Low-Income Farm Areas is now in clearance stage. It shows on a State basis the increase or decrease that took place between 1947-1954 in the number of manufacturing establishments and persons employed by them, with special reference to development in the Southern low-income farm areas. A Rural Development Program handbook to aid program committees administering resource surveys is in manuscript form.

STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ORGANIZATION
(JANUARY 1, 1957)

<u>State</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>No. of Persons on State Com- mittee</u>	<u>No. of County Committees</u>	<u>Total No. of Persons on Coun- ty Committees</u>
Alabama	Chilton Fayette	15	2	53
Arkansas	Ouachita Phillips Van Buren	33	2	62
Georgia	Habersham Meriwether Twiggs Wayne	21	3	62
Illinois	Alexander- Pulaski area	15	-	--
Indiana	Perry	38	1	23
Kentucky	*Butler *Elliott *Metcalfe	21	2	NA
Louisiana	Avoyelles Franklin Washington	16	3	79
Maine	Washington	8	1	45

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<u>State</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>No. of Persons on State Com- mittee</u>	<u>No. of County Committees</u>	<u>Total No. of Persons on Coun- ty Committees</u>
Maryland	Garrett	19	1	18
Michigan	Delta Mackinac	24	-	--
Minnesota	Carlton Hubbard Itasca	32	-	--
Mississippi	Covington Holmes Tippah	21	3	59
Missouri	Dent Douglas Taney	14	3	27
New Mexico	Sandoval Santa Fe	12	2	43
No. Carolina	Anson Bertie Watauga	26	3	120
Ohio	Guernsey Monroe	27	1	48
Oklahoma	Cherokee Choctaw	24	1	29
Pennsylvania	Fayette	26	1	70
So. Carolina	Berkeley Chesterfield Bamberg	36	3	28
Tennessee	Grainger Hardin Macon Houston Marion	34	5	162

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(JANUARY 1, 1957)

<u>State</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>No. of Persons on State Com- mittee</u>	<u>No. of County Committees</u>	<u>Total No. of Persons on Coun- ty Committees</u>
Texas	Camp- Franklin- Titus area Cherokee Shelby-San Augustine area	6	6	83
Virginia	Carroll Cumberland	18	-	--
West Virginia	*Lewis *Raleigh	16	1	16
Wisconsin	Price Sawyer	23	1	75

NA - Not Available

* - Area Center

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